

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached Replacement Sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1-4 and 6-10. In particular, the Figures have been amended to coincide with the amendments to the specification and to ensure consistent use of reference numerals. The replacement sheets, which include Figures 1-10, replaces the original sheets including Figures 1-10. To assist the Examiner in identifying the changes, marked-up copies of the Figures with annotations are included. Each of the marked-up copes is labeled "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes".

Remarks

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review of the subject application. In an effort to correct various typographical errors, Applicant has extensively reviewed the specification and claims.

The specification has been amended to ensure consistent use of reference numerals and to direct the reader to appropriate Figures. Further, the drawings have been amended to coincide with the amendments to the specification and to also ensure consistent use of reference numerals. The Examiner's objection to the drawings is believed overcome. In addition, no new matter is being introduced through the amendments to the specification or drawings.

After entry of the subject Amendment, claims 1 and 4-20 will remain in the application with claims 1, 16, and 17 being in independent form. Claims 1, 4-7, 9-10, and 12-16 have been amended, claims 8 and 11 remain unchanged, and claims 2-3 have been cancelled. Claims 17-20 have been added. The amendments to claims 4-7, 9-10 and 12-16 were made to correct a number of typographical and grammatical errors made at the time of filing. As also discussed below, allowed claim 3 and intervening claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1.

Claims 1-4 and 13-16 are objected to for a number of informalities. Also, claims 4 and 10-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions such that these objections and rejections are believed overcome.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Heinzman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,669,634). Claims 3-16 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as well as correcting any indefiniteness.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 3-16. In accordance with this allowance, claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Dependent claims 4-7, 9-10 and 12-15 have been amended to correct any potential indefiniteness. Allowed independent claim 16 has also been amended to correct any indefiniteness. Hence, claims 1 and 4-16 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 17 has been added to highlight an additional unique aspect of the subject invention. In particular, claim 17 includes the limitations from previous claims 1 and 2 as well as a portion of previous claim 4. Claim 17 specifically sets forth that the shear capsules engage both the edges of the primary notches and the edges of the secondary notches. This particular configuration is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record, including Heinzman et al. Although Heinzman et al. may arguably disclose a secondary notch, this secondary notch does not have upper and lower edges diverging in a rearward direction at a predetermined angle with the shear capsules engaging the edges. Accordingly, claim 17 along with dependent claims 18-20 are also believed allowable.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

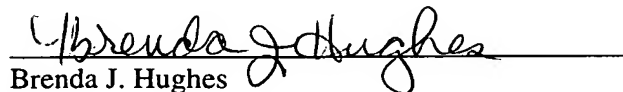
Dated: August 11, 2006



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Amendment, Replacement Sheets of Drawings - 8 sheets, Annotated Sheets of Drawings - 8 sheets, One-Month Extension of Time, fee of \$120.00 (using deposit account), and return post card** are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee", **Mailing Label No. EV 902 848 712 US** and addressed to **Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**, on **August 11, 2006**.



Brenda J. Hughes

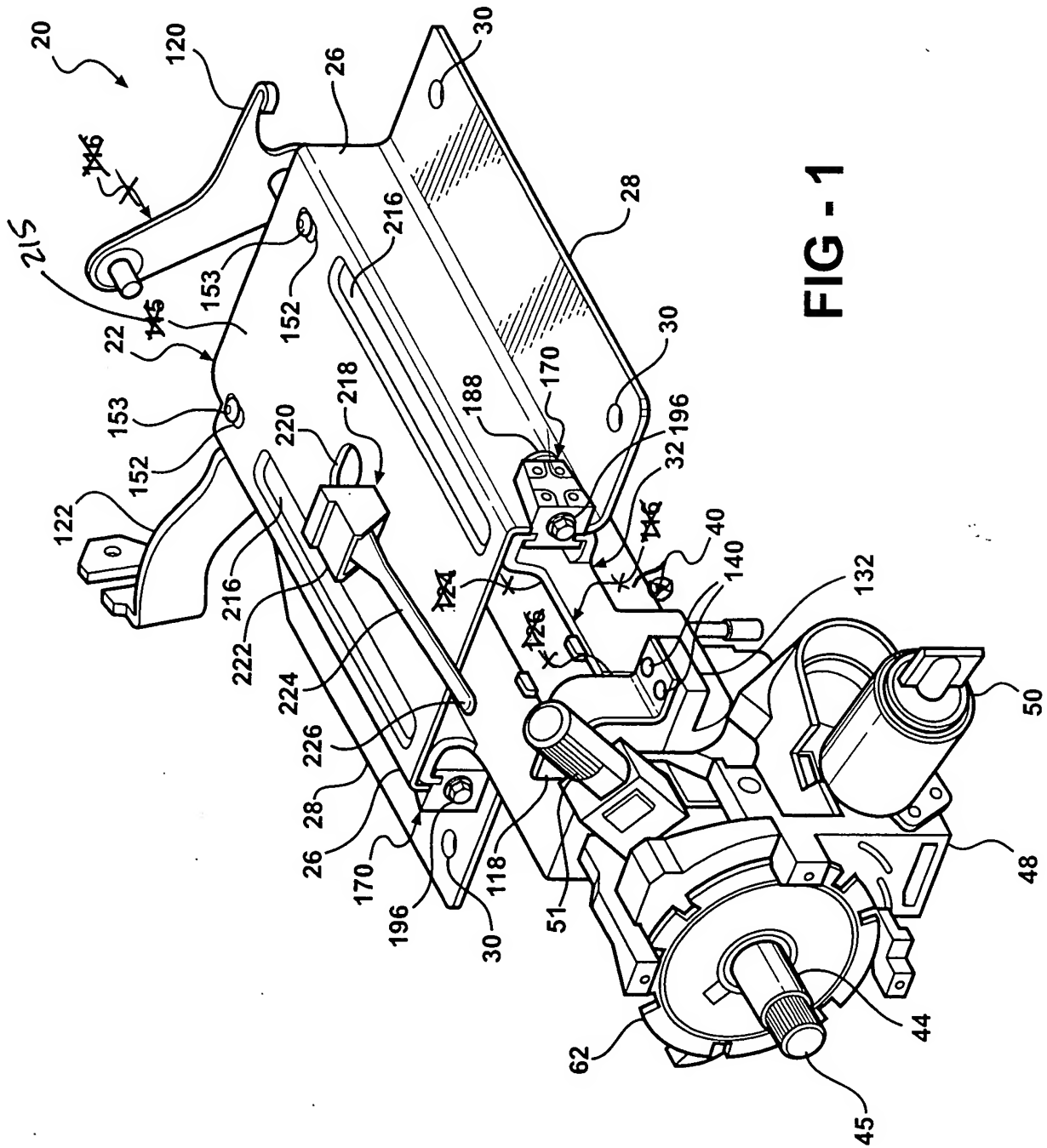


FIG. 1

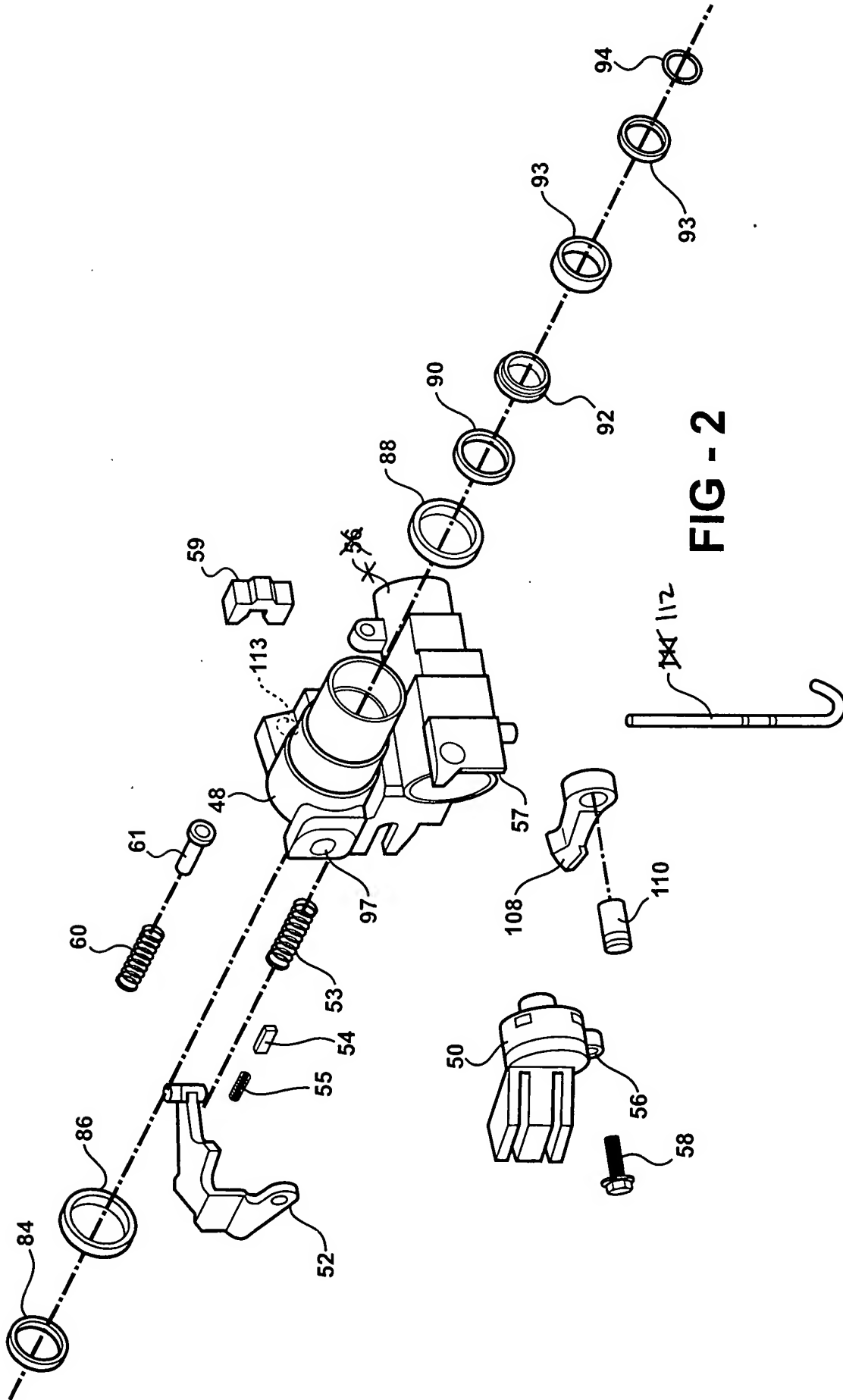


FIG - 2

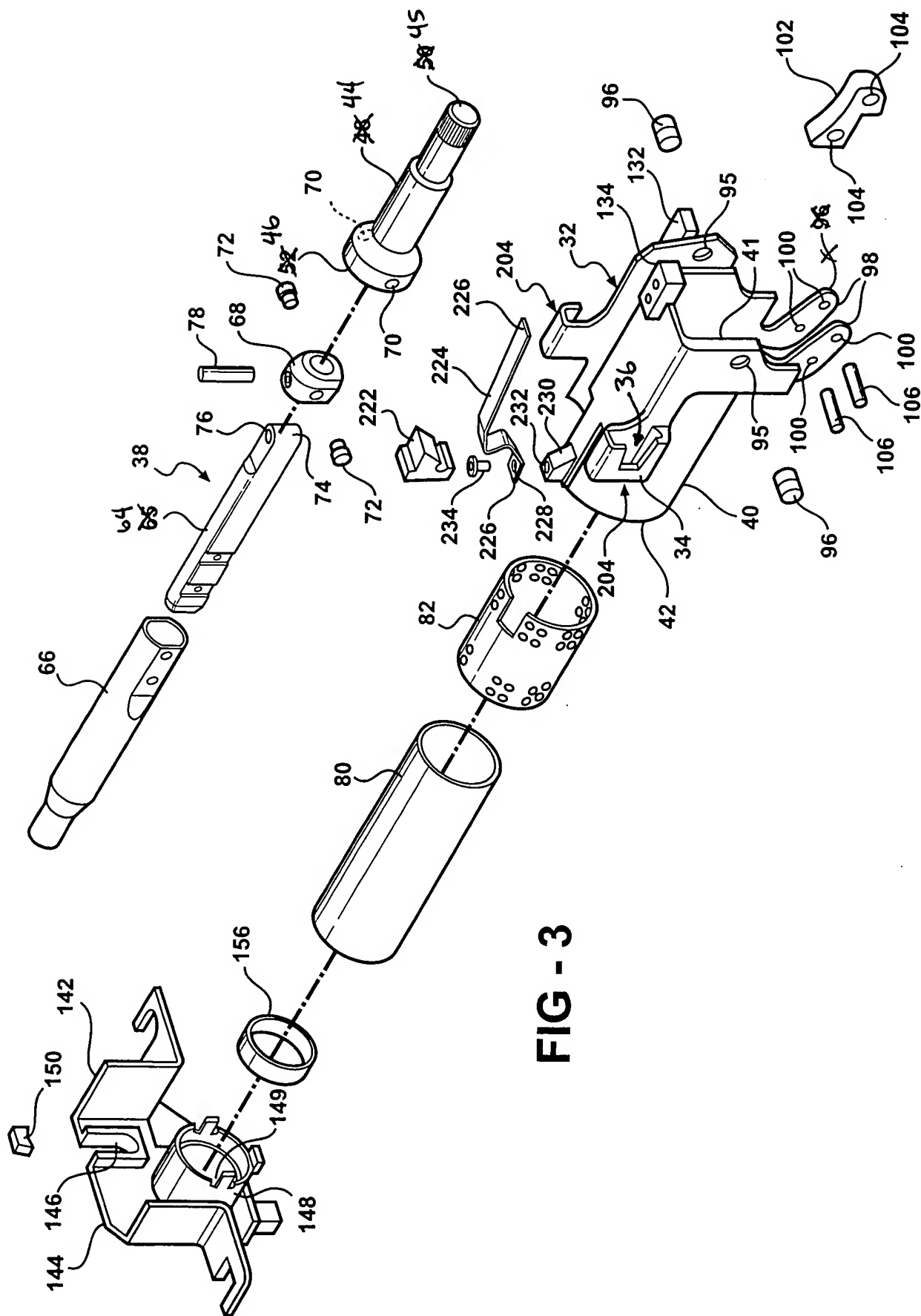


FIG - 3

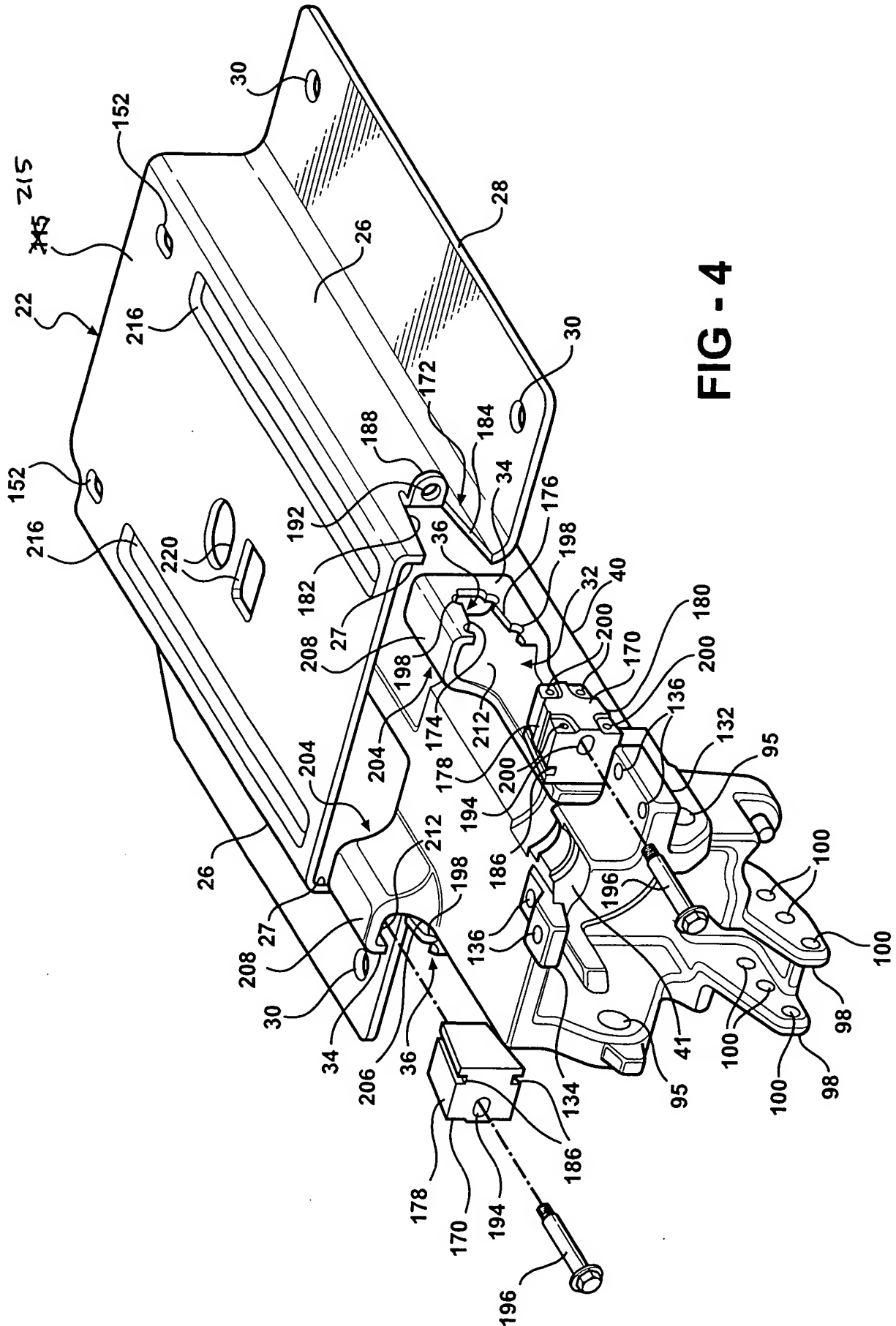


FIG - 4

[illegible]